



CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

June 3, 2003

The Honorable Michael Peevey
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Dear President Peevey:

Mike

I strongly urge you to postpone the California Public Utilities Commission's decision this Thursday on whether to split the 310 area code. I have been advised by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell that the FCC anticipates ruling on the California PUC's contamination petition before June 19, when you are next scheduled to meet.

Raising the contamination threshold from 10% to 25%, as the PUC's FCC petition proposes, would significantly increase the amount of phone numbers that would be pooled between carriers and thus used more efficiently. In the 310 area code alone, raising the contamination threshold would free up about 260,000 new numbers. I also urge you to promptly resubmit the CPUC's technology specific overlay petition, which could slow the rate of number usage by assigning a separate area code to ATMs, handheld email devices, and other numbers not associated with a particular consumer. You personally assured me in March that the CPUC would quickly resubmit this petition. Nearly three months later, it has not been resubmitted.

The contamination petition, the technology specific overlay and the FCC's expected enforcement of wireless local number portability requirements this November should be enough to avoid a 310 area code split for the foreseeable future. The CPUC should wait until it has all the facts – especially the disposition of the contamination petition – before making a decision with such a significant impact on businesses and seniors in my district. To do otherwise would be to surrender when the cavalry is on the way.

Sincerely,

Jane
JANE HARMAN

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